



# Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad  
Governor

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Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer  
Director

## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1268

**DATE:** July 25, 2013

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Hospitals Not Enrolled with IowaCare

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Replenishment of Limited Emergent Hospital Coverage for IowaCare Members

**EFFECTIVE:** July 1, 2013

On October 1, 2010, Informational Letter No. [947](#) announced a new appropriation of limited funding for emergency hospital services for IowaCare members. The funding was available when rendered by a hospital licensed in Iowa and enrolled with Medicaid but not a designated IowaCare hospital.

**For State Fiscal Year 2014, funding has been reduced to \$1 million due to the expiration of the IowaCare program on December 31, 2013.** The funding is for inpatient hospital charges only and does not cover physician or other practitioner charges. Reimbursement for these services will end when the funding is exhausted or on December 31, 2013, whichever occurs first. All requirements remain the same.

The following criteria must be met for non-IowaCare hospitals to receive reimbursement:

- The member must be enrolled with IowaCare at the time of the service. Providers should verify eligibility via the Eligibility and Verification Information System (ELVS) at 800-338-7752 or 515-323-9639 (Des Moines area) or the portal located at: <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/OnlineTools.html>.
- The service is an emergency as designated by the department and it is not medically possible to postpone provision of the service. The IME Emergent Diagnosis code list is located at: <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/docs/EmergencyDiagnosisCodes.xls>.
- It is not medically possible to transfer the member to an IowaCare hospital or the IowaCare hospital does not have sufficient capacity to accept the member.
- The emergent service is followed by an inpatient admission at the treating non-IowaCare hospital.

For IowaCare claims, State Fiscal Year 2014 begins with dates of service on July 1, 2013, and will end with dates of service on December 31, 2013. The IME will process and pay these claims as they are received until the \$1 million appropriation is exhausted. Once expended, all other emergent hospital services (at a non-IowaCare hospital) for IowaCare members are the responsibility of the member.

Please refer to Informational Letter No. [1053](#) issued on September 19, 2011, announcing that a requirement for the non-IowaCare hospital to collaborate with the IowaCare hospital as a condition of payment was removed. That policy remains in effect.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, locally in Des Moines at 515-256-4609 or by email at [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us).